

Treasure Mountain Home

A Centennial History
of
Park City, Utah

by
George A. Thompson
and
Fraser Buck

Published by
DESERET BOOK COMPANY

Salt Lake City, Utah

1968



Courtesy: Utah State Historical Society

Col. Patrick E. Connor, Father of Utah Mining. His troops made the discovery that became Park City.

Ruins of early Scots settlement at Lake Flat. Lady of the Lake Mine in the rear.

Courtesy: William Richardson



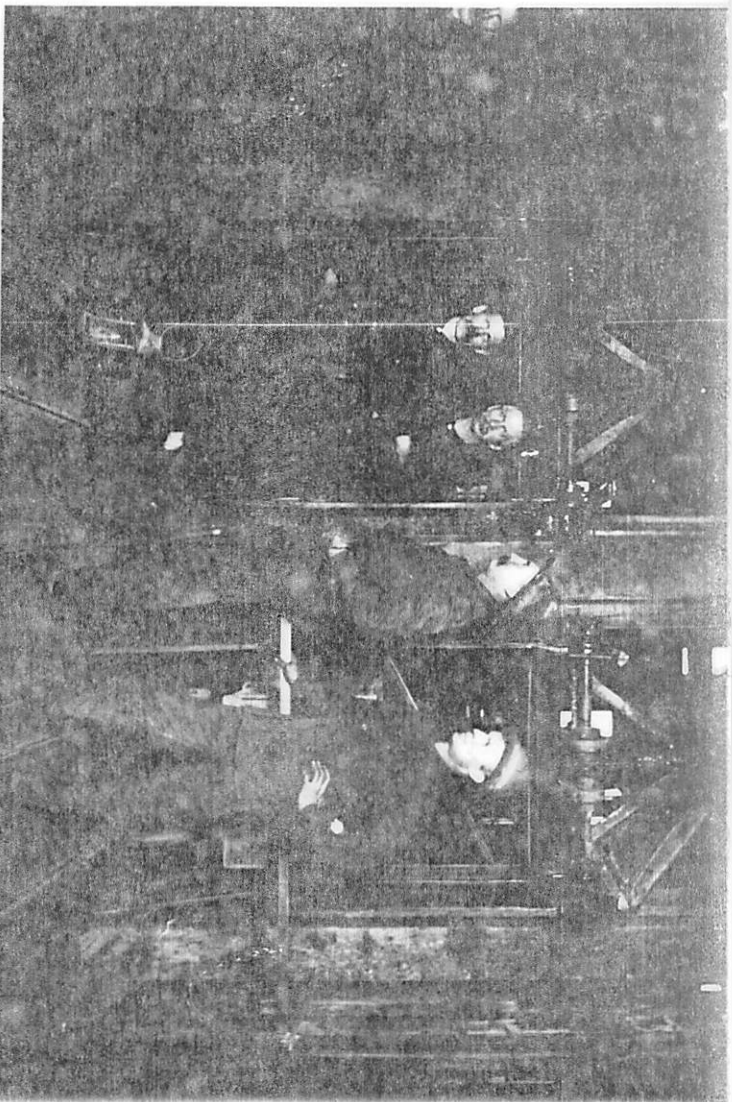
Chapter 2

Discovery

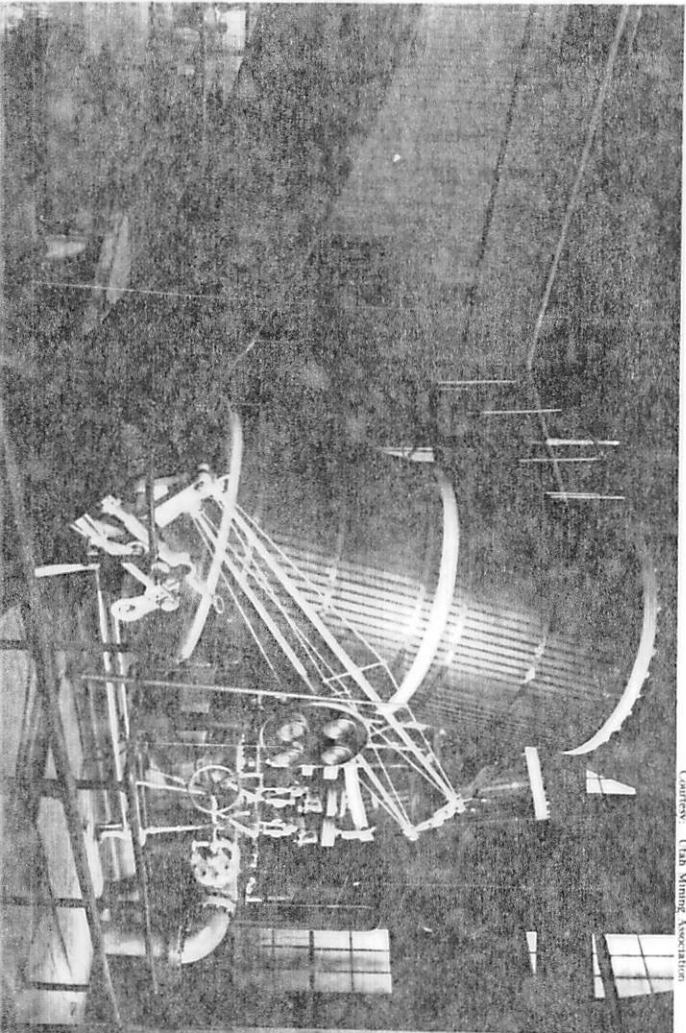
Rector Steen was a partner in, if not the discoverer of, Park City's greatest mine. It was the discovery of the Ontario claim in 1872 that started Park City on its way to becoming the west's greatest silver camp. For years miners have argued loud and long in the camp saloons over just who it was that actually made that most important and richest of all strikes. They all agree, however, that whoever it was he wasn't a very good businessman for he sold for only \$27,000 a mine that produced over \$50,000,000 and paid dividends in excess of \$15,000,000!

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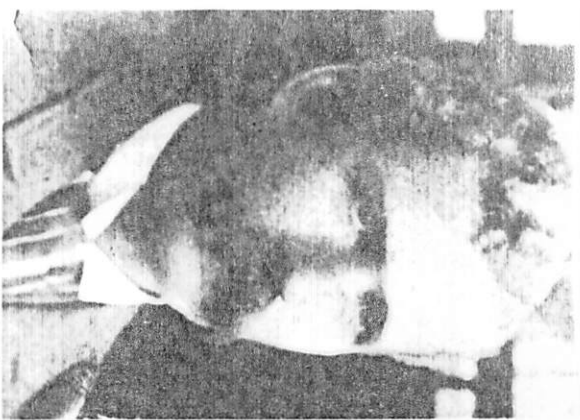
Courtesy: Utah Mining Association
Group of men and mine cages Ontario Mine (Second man from left: Dave Baxter)



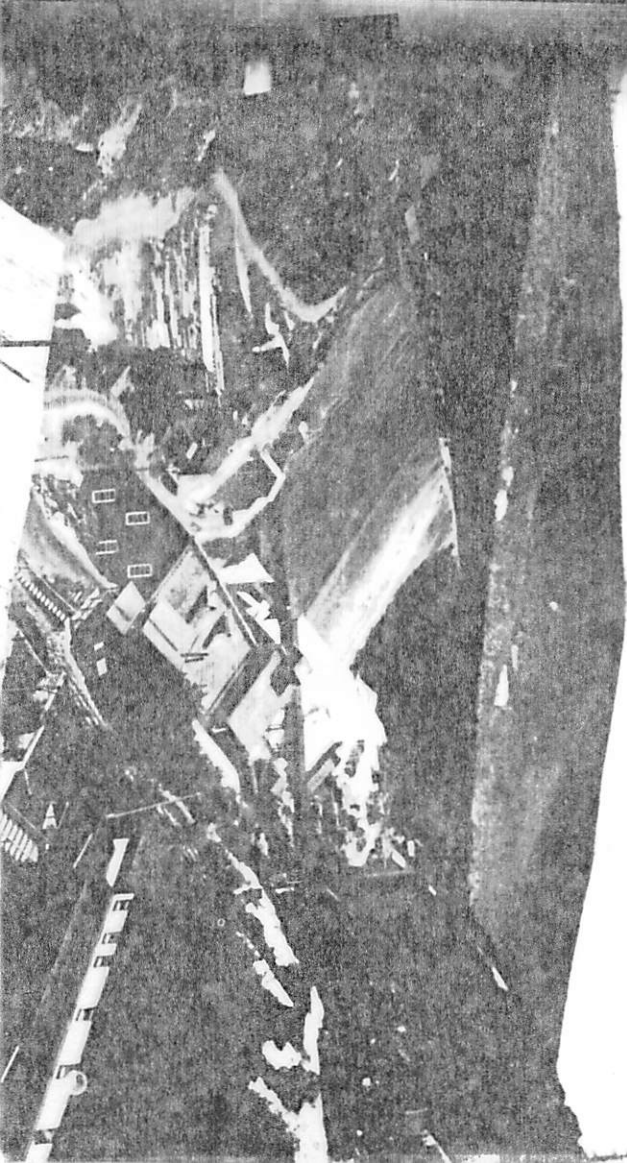
Courtesy: Utah Mining Association
View of The Cornish Pumping Engine Ontario Mine



Courtesy: Anna Daley Holmes
Michael J. Dailey, Worked with Mr. Keith and Mr. Keams in the Mangflower, Woodside and Silver King. Became Foreman, Assistant Manager, Manager, and Superintendent of the Silver King and Silver King Coalition Mines Co.



Courtesy: Fraser Block
An early photo of David Keith



Courtesy: Utah State Historical Society
Ontario Mine Workings. Ontario No. 1 Lower Center, Ontario No. 2, Upper right; Ontario No. 3, Upper left



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According to Buden's story, told years later in a letter written to the editor of the Park Record, he "drifted into

on their favorite racers with many a gold piece changing hands. In the first race held there, the Record reported that Col. Wall's grey beat A. M. Smith's racer. A circular track was later built below town about a mile east of the present cemetery.

Races with horse-drawn carts were a popular sport with Dr. E. P. LeCompte and Ed Berry being two of the regular contestants. Dr. LeCompte was a fine physician who had served with Col. George Custer's 7th Cavalry right up to the time of the Little Big Horn Battle in 1876.

In addition to Dr. LeCompte there were a number of other fine doctors in town, among them Dr. McFalls, Dr. Gregors, Dr. Mantor, and Dr. C. M. Wilson. Dr. McFalls was once accused of not having been schooled as a doctor but later it was proven he had been an army surgeon for a long period. He left Park City and was succeeded by Dr. Gregor in July, 1883. Dr. Gregor and Dr. Wilson were brothers-in-law and formed a partnership in which they also proved themselves capable, efficient, and well-liked.

New hotels and rooming houses were being built on every street, the Salt Lake House in the center of town being one of the most popular while the Park City Hotel owned by a Mr. Fischel and the Park Hotel operated by L. A. Simmons were considered among the finest. On June 23, 1883, Burt and Robert Kimball took over the Park City & Salt Lake Stage Line and installed the best Concord coaches available. They had four relay stations along the route where stops were made and teams changed. By 1885 business was so good that local stables were being called upon to furnish wagons to handle their added business. The Kimballs were among the first settlers in Parley's Park, operating a stage station and ranch there for many years. In June, 1885, W. H. Kimball, known as "Old Stager," visited Park City and invited all his friends to the ranch to celebrate the success of the stage line. He offered drinks on the house for everyone, the "drinks" being buttermilk!

On Dec. 2, 1882, a disastrous fire started in room No. 14

in Fisher's Hotel and soon swept through Wiseman & Clark's Jewelry, the Park City Bank building, and the Theriot building, but the fast work of the volunteer fire department stopped its advance just short of a row of frame houses. On Aug. 22, 1885, the American Hotel and Dr. Snyder's office were destroyed by another fire which would have been a disaster if Henry Newell's meat market hadn't been nearly torn down to slow its advance. These were only the first of a long series of fires which plagued the town for many years.

Since early in 1882 Park City had tried to get a charter of incorporation but the state kept refusing until 1884 when it could no longer ignore the camp with its population in excess of 4,000 and finally on Mar. 8, 1884, the charter was granted. An election was soon held and F. W. Hayt, the camp's postmaster, was chosen as the first mayor. Now officially incorporated, Park City began to take on class. One of the first ordinances passed by the city fathers forbade Chinese laundries on Main Street.

Many of the popular lodges of the day began to open branches in town, including the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows. Dances were held at Dudler's Hall, Lawrence Hall, and sometimes at the Ontario boarding house. In 1883 the Society Hall was built by subscription by the various lodges and for years was considered to be one of the finest show houses in the west. It was equipped with a large orchestra pit, elaborate stage scenery, and a fancy lobby and seating area. The Record advertised such prominent stage plays as "The Twelve Temptations," "Light Of The Moon," and "The Avenger." Many great stars of the day appeared there including Maggie Mitchell, America's favorite, in "The Little Maverick," and Goodrich, Elitch, & Schillings Minstrels, as well as Zinlock the Magician, and William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody.

Early issues of the Record are also filled with stories of shootings and murders that shocked the camp. Some of

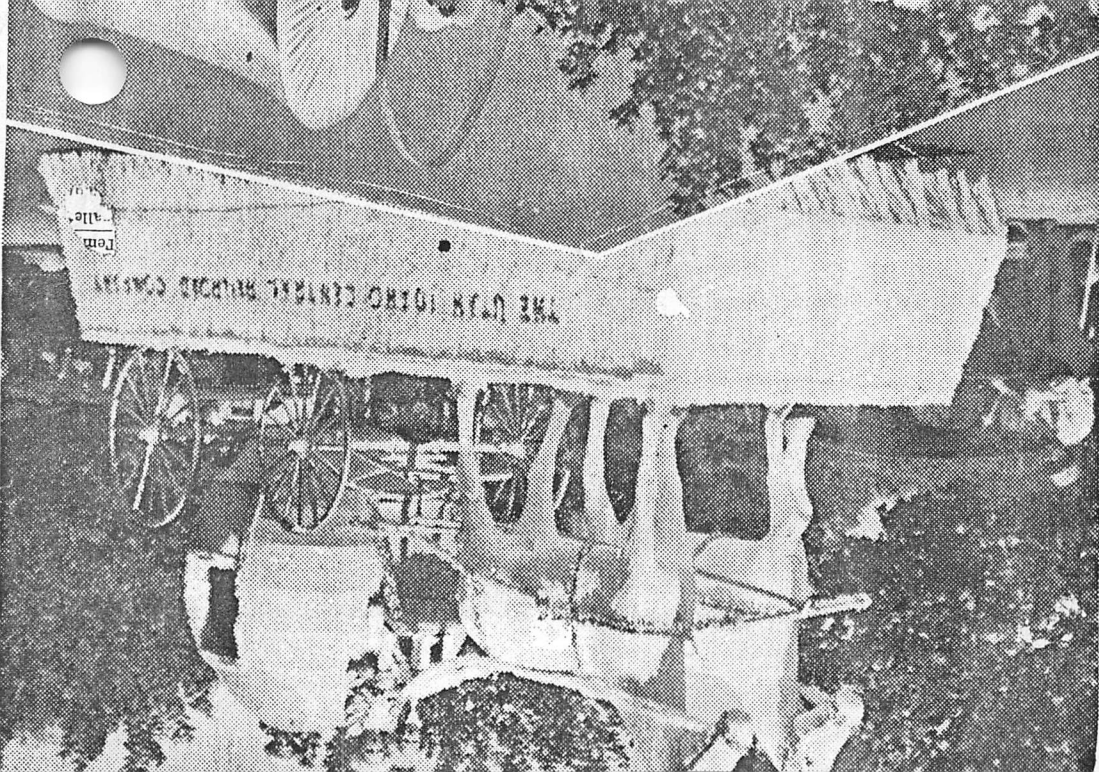
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Filed 1898-19
June
P 166
P 162

my spirit be one with thee
the deep love that knows no fear.

heart, dear Savior, broke for me
upon the cruel and lonely cross;
may my heart be true to Thee
and ever be pure and free from
dross.

me own life Thou gavest for me
in pangs of agonizing pain;
by my life be given to Thee
and glorify Thy gracious reign."

That is not poetry. It is just a bit
my homely rhyme, into which I
have woven the deepest and dearest
things of my soul, for I do know
I know I live that my Redeemer
s. I know that it is through His
suffering, His death, and His resur-
rection from the dead that I have the
truth that purifies my heart and fills
with strength to conquer the foes
my soul; and win life's highest
—eternal salvation.—(Tabernacle
ress.)



contests were held on the 4th of July with the different mines competing against each other. In 1897 Mike Malia and Joe Tribley of the Daly won \$100 by drilling a hole 24 inches deep in 15 minutes. Another good record was made in 1901 by Pat Hurley and John Witt of the Silver King with 25 inches. In 1904 Kelly & LeRoy of the Ontario made 18½ inches in only 10 minutes when Harrington & O'Neil of the Silver King were forced to stop at 16½ inches with a broken drill.

While Daly was driving the Anchor Tunnel and Judge was pushing the Alliance ever deeper, R. C. Chambers of the Ontario was planning a new drain tunnel which would make them both insignificant by comparison. It was the new Ontario drain tunnel, 3 miles long to the mines 1,500 foot level, 4½ miles to the Daly shaft, and later a mile beyond that. It was planned to cost \$400,000 and would allow the Ontario to mine to the 1,500-foot level and deeper, opening up new and ever richer ore bodies. A site was chosen three miles east of the Ontario and named Camp Florence in honor of the daughter of Dan Robbins, the first woman to visit the site.

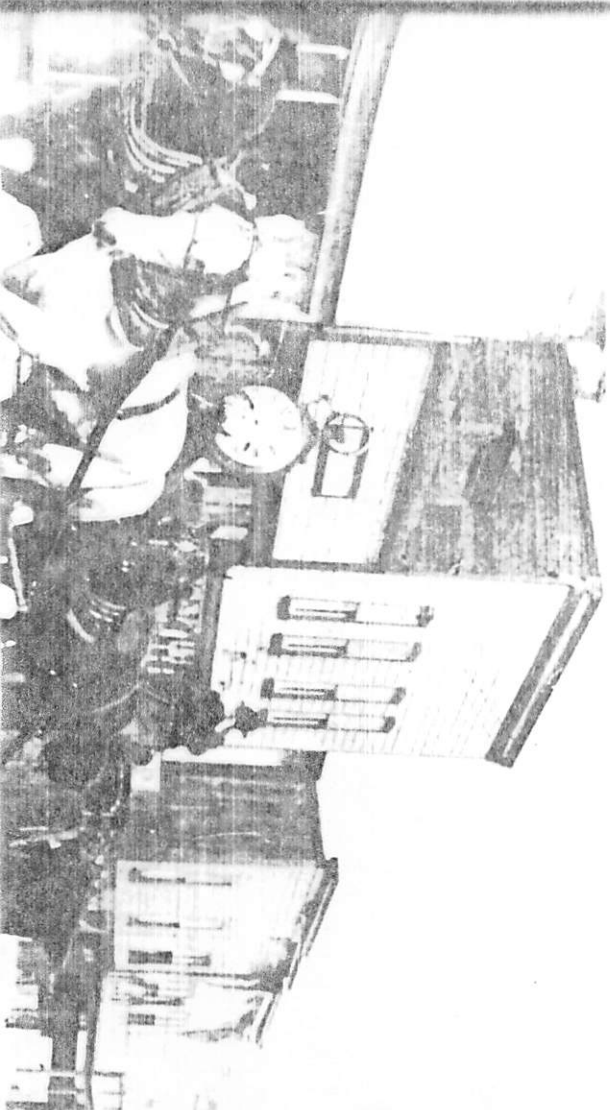
John Keebley was the man Chambers chose to supervise the great undertaking. A regular camp of mine buildings and bunkhouses was built and on Aug. 27, 1887, work was started with hand drills, the newly ordered compressed air drills not having arrived in time for the start. At the same time the first holes were drilled at Camp Florence work began in the Ontario shaft to drive a tunnel from that end to meet the one being started at the surface. It would be a test of underground surveying skill as well as being a mining first.

The Record reported the surface tunnel in 4,000 feet in April, 1890, and by November it had reached 5,500 feet. That month the entire surface plant at Camp Florence burned, resulting in a delay of several months while new facilities were built. The fire could easily have been doused if the men only had the water encountered



Park City's Reservoirs (At time of the fire of 1898)

(Courtesy Utah State Historical Society)



Hauling ore by sleigh on Main Street. Driver is George Street.

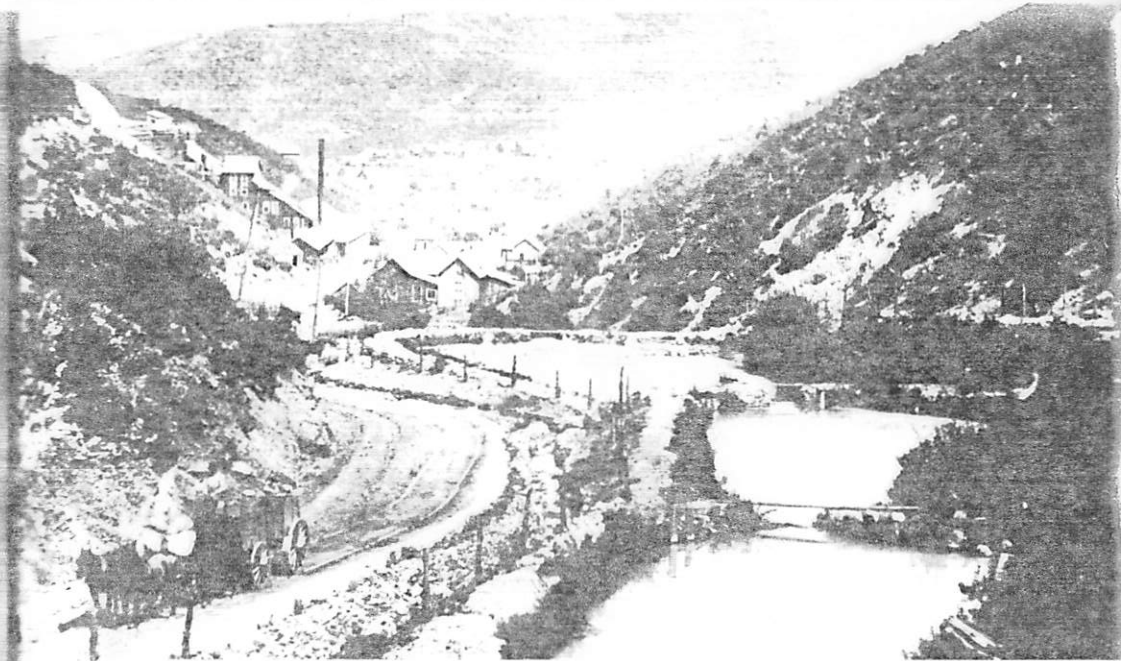
(Courtesy Fraser Book)

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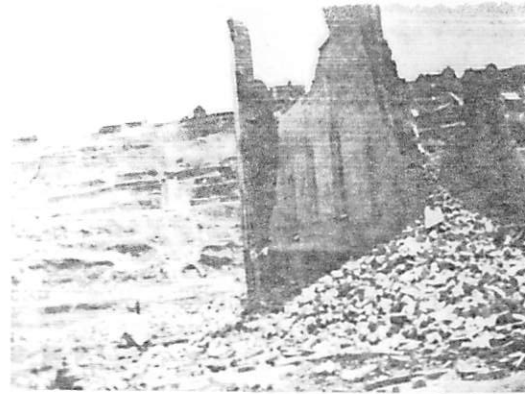
Courtesy: Utah State Historical Society

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Hauling ore by sleigh on Main Street. Driver is George Street.

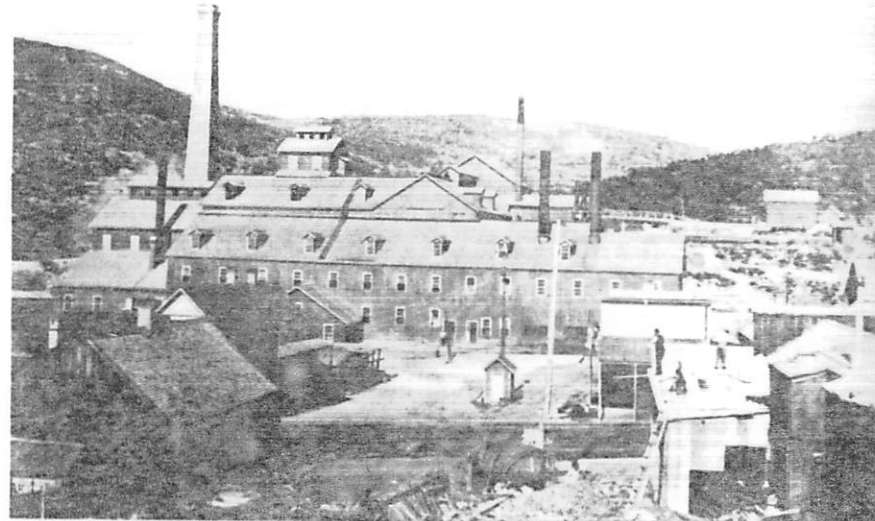
Courtesy: Fraser Buck





Courtesy: Blanch D. Buck

Ruins of the Grand Opera House after fire of '98.



Courtesy: Valley Studio

Main Street business district being rebuilt after the fire of '98.

Blythe Fargos "The Big Store"



Courtesy: Fraser Buck

the people knew there was no time to lose for winter's snows come early in the Wasatch. Buildings of rough pine boards appeared where once proud structures of brick and stone had been. Appropriately, perhaps, it was a saloon built by George Wanning that was the first new building to be built. Fire fighting and saloon building is dry work so it was fortunate that the brewery located in the basement of Joe Dudler's saloon, later Rasbands Hall, wasn't lost in the fire. Wanning's saloon was housed in the roughest of buildings but it was followed by other far more substantial structures. Among some of the well-built buildings that soon appeared was the Park City Hotel, Paul Brothers & Wilson's store, Adams Photo shop, Hurlbut's Drug, the First National Bank, several doctors and legal offices, and the Park Record office.

The Record had lost all of its printing presses and equipment in the great fire but still never missed an issue. It was printed by the Salt Lake Herald until July 30 when the first issue printed in Park City since the fire hit the streets. It reported that at least one new building a day was going up, including Charlie Street's new store, a temporary post office, Wiseman's Jewelry, George Smith's meat market, the Bell Telephone office, Riley & Towey's saloon and gambling hall, as well as a whole host of shops and office buildings.

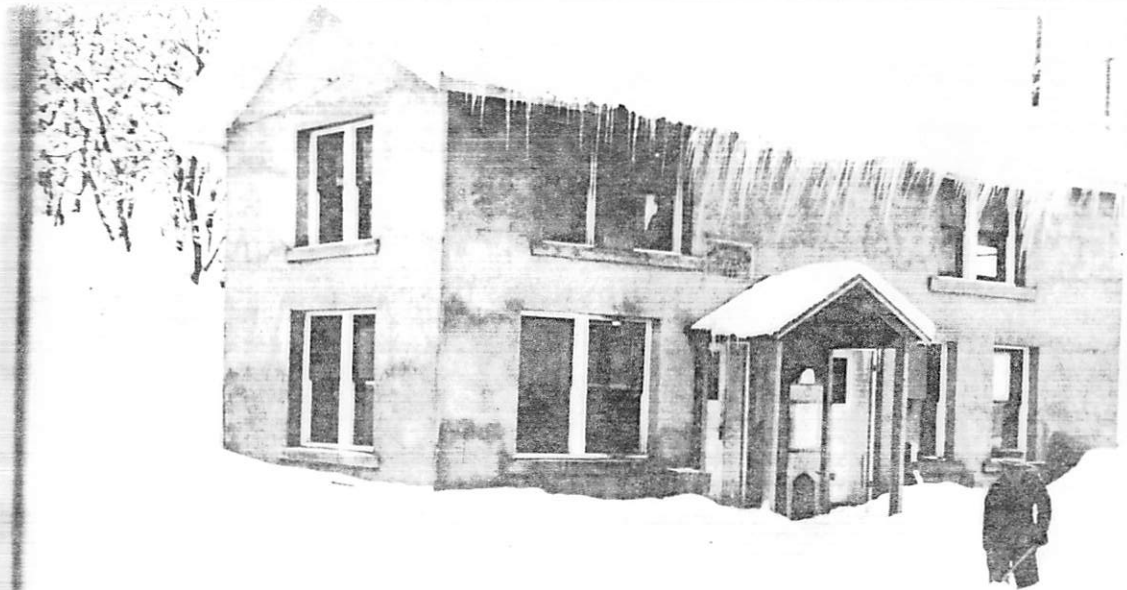
A fine new building to house the First National Bank and Silver King Mine offices was built of brick and stone, all fire proof, and boasting a burglar-proof vault that weighed ten tons. Sutton's meat market, a completely modern butcher business having its own slaughter house and processing plant, opened for business. Like Henry Newell's early butcher shop the Suttons bought cattle in large number and kept them in their large pasture just north of town.

A great new opera house named the Dewey in honor of the hero of Manila Bay was started and had its opening on Christmas with a grand ball. The Dewey had a stage

company started business as the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Company. Lambourne was president and general manager while company directors included M. C. Fox, Charles Lange, and Adolph Hanke. Oscar Friendly, J. W. Stoner, E. A. Hewitt, and Leonard Wilson were mining engineers while Paul Hunt, H. R. Wallace, and George Kruger were superintendents and foremen. The new company started with 925 men on its payroll of \$1,500,000 per year and owned much of the richest mining ground in the district.

A "monstrous" ore body that was found on the mine's 1,800 foot level sent the new company's stock to \$8 a share and an extra dividend became a first order of business. In addition at Christmas the company paid each miner a \$10 bonus. Each succeeding year saw the Park Utah's production soar until soon it even made the old-time mines like the Ontario and Silver King take a back seat. The finding of new ore bodies became routine as did ever increasing monthly dividends. By 1928 Park Utah stock was \$14 a share with those in the know saying it would hit \$20. Park Utah Consolidated became the most active issue on the New York Stock Exchange and little wonder for that year it became the largest single silver producer in the United States.

The late 1920's were prosperous years for other Park City mines also. In February, 1929, the Keystone reopened after a long shutdown. It had produced \$700,000 and paid \$135,000 in dividends with no work done below the 500-foot level. In 1927 the New Quincy Company began shipping ore and the next year its stock had risen from only a few cents to over \$1. Also in 1927 D. K. Konold started the Konolds Mines Corporation with an issue of stock selling at 25c that by 1929 had risen to \$1. The Silver King Western, incorporated with \$3,500,000 in stock, was another new mine started in 1929. Such well-known mining names as Kearns, Ivers, and Dailey were listed among its officers.



Office of Park Utah Mining Co. (Located at Camp Florence)

Courtesy: United Park City Mining



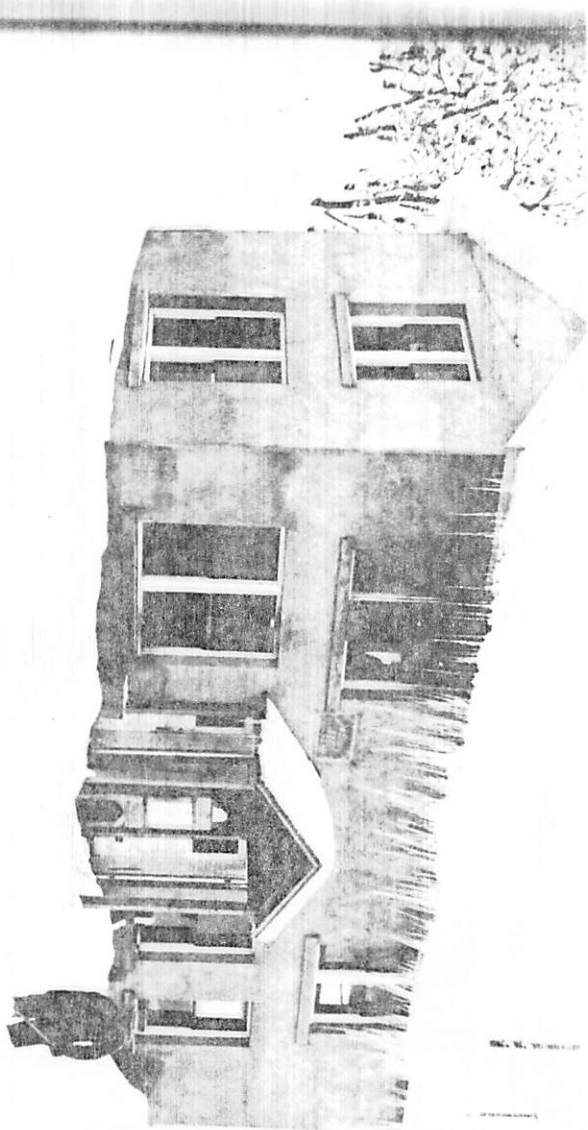
A shipment of new Ford "Tin Lizzies"

Courtesy: Fraser Buck

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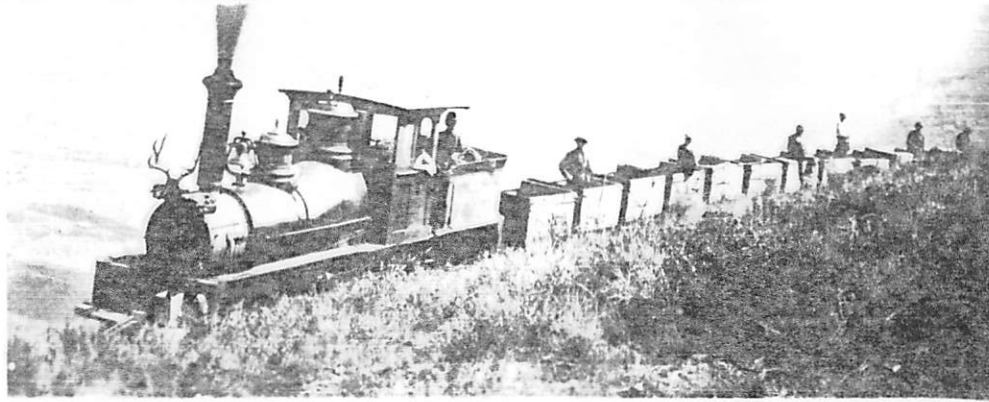
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A shipment of new Ford "Tin Lizzies"

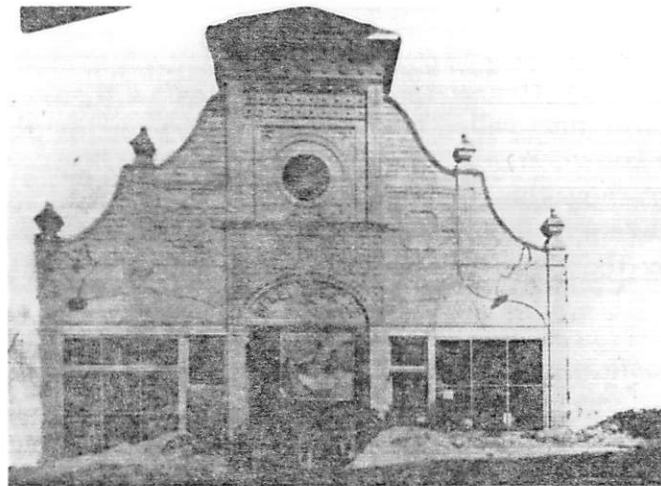
Courtesy: Fraser Park





Crescent Mine Tramway in the '90's. Engine was the "Maud Withey"

Courtesy: Fraser Buck

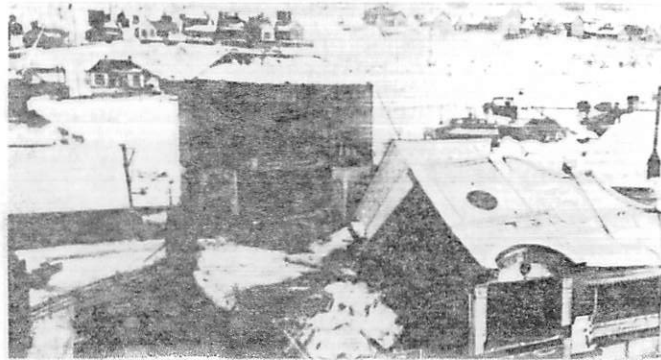


The Dewey Theatre. (Note Handbills on windows)

Courtesy: Fraser Buck

The Dewey Theatre after its collapse. (Note how walls fell outward and roof dropped)

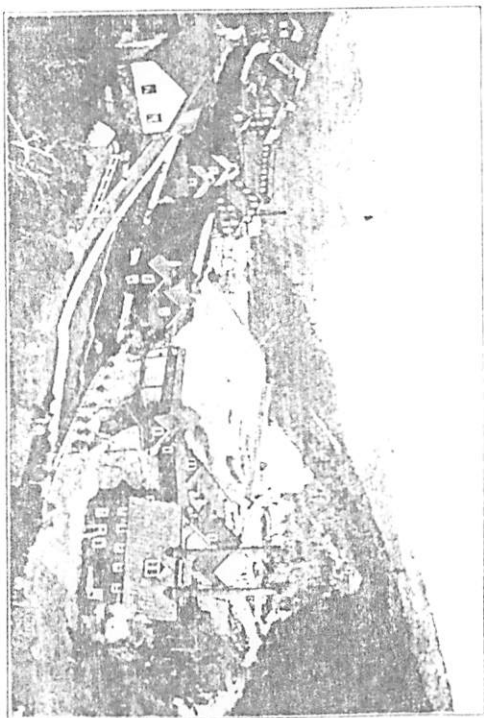
Courtesy: Fraser Buck



hours earlier. Only a cloud of dust slowly settling over the broken and twisted timber marked the building's site. It was snowing lightly and that small additional weight of snow had literally become the straw that broke the camel's back. The four walls of the building had bowed outward under the great weight from above and allowed the roof and ceiling to drop straight downward. The rows of seats which had been filled with customers only a few hours earlier had taken the force of the falling timber and were crushed flat against the floor. Probably a few of the on-lookers wondered at the smile of thankfulness on the manager's face that night.

In April, 1916, a new theatre was built on lower Main Street by Frank Knotts and W. J. Mahan. It was named the Orpheum and was welcomed by people living in the town's lower end who up to that time had to walk all the way up town to see a show. In December, 1916, James Ivers, director of the Silver King Company, died in Salt Lake City. He had started his career at Park City by working as a blacksmith at the old Daly Mine and had later driven an ore wagon. He obtained an interest in the Silver King Mine when it was only a hole in the ground and made his fortune from it. A few days later Barney Riley, well known partner in Riley & Towey's saloon and gambling hall also died. In January, 1917, Dr. R. V. Barta first hung out his shingle in Park City and the same month a new bank known as the State Bank of Park City opened its doors. In February the Oak Rooming House was started above the Oak Saloon and the Adams Express Company succeeded the well-known Wells Fargo Company.

The far away war in Europe suddenly came home with a boom to Park City for on May 25, 1917, registration for the draft began. All men between the ages of 21 and 31 were required to register with no exceptions regardless of status. There were 109 eligible men registered in Park City with a total of 1,109 in Summit County. The first call of 25 men from Park City was made in September but some



PAER CITY.

Park City High School

